

[illegible]

An expandable hoop support for flexible tubing comprising in combination:

- a. A preformed hoop composed of a coil of material having memory retaining properties; and
  - b. Cylindrical delivery means for constraining said coil into a linear configuration whereby when said delivery means and said coil are inserted into said tube and said delivery means is then removed, said hoop will then reconfigure from a constrained linear configuration to the original preformed hoop configuration.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said delivery means is a rod arranged to fit within said coil.
3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said delivery means is a tube arranged to fit over said coil.
4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said hoop comprises a stent.
5. The procedure for opening a coronary artery comprising in combination:
  - a. Providing a preformed hoop composed of a coil of material having memory retaining properties;
  - b. Providing cylindrical delivery means for constraining said coil into a linear configuration;
  - c. Inserting said hoop and said delivery means into said artery; and
  - d. Removing said delivery means whereby said hoop remains in said artery to support said artery in an open position.

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